

Today

A START, at Least.
And Definite.
We Yield Most.
What About Armies?

By ARTHUR BRISBANE
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Delegates to the Washington conference know, from Secretary Hughes, that this country has something definite to propose. It can be put in five words, "Let us stop our nonsense."

With the world racing to spend-thrift destruction, the sensible suggestion is, "Let us stop right here and talk it over."

And that is Mr. Hughes' suggestion made for the United States.

No more warship building for ten years. No finishing of ships now building. And the plan involves the scrapping of sixty-six great fighting ships. The United States, England and Japan are to be the three nations in the plan, for they are the three great naval powers.

The proposal is definite, drastic, revolutionary, new in the world's history, and is all written out in detail. Some ships completed are to be actually destroyed within three months—hundreds of millions invested in killing machinery to be wiped out. All ships building now go to the junk pile. In ten years nothing new existing would be worth using anyhow, even if someone played false and saved the partly finished vessels.

The ships that must be destroyed, although now in the water, ready, and the ships that each of the three nations may keep, are named. No room for mistakes.

The United States shows good faith in making the greatest sacrifice in ships, money, and size.

With our wealth we could bankrupt the world, including England and Japan, at the shipbuilding game.

Instead of that, we agree to scrap thirty-three vessels of 843,740 tons, against nineteen English ships of 583,372 tons, and seventeen Japanese ships of 448,929 tons.

England's king, in his latest speech, said England must always have the biggest navy. We could have replied: "All right, go ahead and let us see who will last longer." Even if England used the billions borrowed from us to build ships against us, we could put her in bankruptcy easily.

We take a different tone and say that England's navy, compared with ours, may be as six is to five. We say, "You want the biggest navy? Have it. We'll consent to your navy being one-sixth bigger than ours, although we have twice your white population and twice your money."

The plan ultimately is to have English and American fleets equal, the Japanese navy not to exceed 60 per cent of either of the other two. With England and Japan united in alliance, that would mean an Anglo-Japanese fleet by 60 per cent greater than ours, and we consent. It is not merely that we consider 160 to 100 pretty fair odds for us, but that we want to show GOOD FAITH. And we are showing it.

How will the nations, England especially, receive the suggestion? If accepted, it takes from the nations, as individuals, the right to "do as they choose with their own," according to the sacred ancient formula. It is not humanity revolting against the barbarism of war, but business common sense revolting against going bankrupt.

This country, which has least cause to fear financial ruin, offers the way to other big naval powers. It will mean a saving of \$200,000,000 a year to each of them in one single direction. It will release from wasting time in the navy tens of thousands made available for productive work.

Nothing is said about flying machines, since machines built for peace could at once be used in war. That which will carry mail bags will carry bombs. Our postoffice needs, with Hays managing the department for the President, will take care of the country in that direction.

An effort will be made to regulate building of merchant ships that could be used for naval fighting. It won't be easy to regulate. A gigantic fast passenger or freight ship could easily take on board long-range guns. Protected by submarines, destroyers, and air craft, such a converted merchantman—with guns of range sufficient—could wipe out battleships.

But, at least, an attempt is made to stop the spending before the nations are bankrupt, and that is something. The United States offers to do more, in limiting herself, than she asks England or Japan to do. She scraps more, sacrifices more, takes second place on the sea, although she could afford first place, with a big margin.

Alarmed patriots that wonder why England should have a navy one-sixth bigger, for the present, than our own are reminded that with her danger points all over the earth, England would need a navy twice as big as ours to be, for purposes of defense (not attack), as well protected.

And Japan, tightly bound in her small possessions, with a navy 60 per cent of ours, or England's, is better armed, in (Continued on Page 11, Column 5.)

WEATHER

Rain and warmer today; tomorrow probably rain; fresh southerly winds. Temperature yesterday—Highest, 43; lowest, 30.

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THREE CENTS EVERYWHERE.

The Washington Times

THE NATIONAL DAILY

FINAL HOME EDITION

WHOLESALE JAIL ESCAPE IS THWARTED

British Want To Scrap More Submarines

LOOPHOLE SOUGHT IN ACCEPTING NAVAL CUT

Balfour, Acting on London Instructions, Expected to Open Way for Reservations.

By International News Service.
LONDON, Nov. 14.—Secretary of State Hughes' proposals for limitation of naval armaments are compatible with British interests, according to an official statement issued from Premier Lloyd George's Downing street office today.

"The proposals are ambitious, but as the conference has an ambitious purpose, they were not surprising," the statement said. "They are compatible with British interests."

At the regular morning press conference it was said no further announcements would be made and no action taken by the Government pending arrival of the official report from the British delegation at Washington.

By International News Service.
A. J. Balfour, head of the British delegation to the armament conference, probably will go before the conference tomorrow and make a speech virtually accepting the proposal for a "naval holiday" made by the United States, it was said semi-officially at the British delegation headquarters today.

Wants Loophole for Changes.
Mr. Balfour, in his proposed speech, however, will ask that certain portions of the proposals be opened for amendment and further discussion.

Great Britain will make the proposal for reduction in the number of submarines be amended and that there be a greater scrapping of this instrument of warfare, it was said. Proposals also will be made by the British to establish a machinery whereby the machinery for building battleships will not be a total loss.

London Directing Actions.
The British delegation has been in almost constant communication with the British Foreign Office since Saturday, it was said, and it is understood that whatever statements Mr. Balfour may make before the conference tomorrow will be in accordance with instructions which he has received from London.

British delegates are confident Japan will accept the American proposals in general, but expect some reservations with regard to future fortification of the Pacific.

It is not expected in British circles here that Lloyd George will come to the United States now, until the questions regarding Far Eastern policy are taken up.

Acceptance of Japan Believed to Hinge on U. S. Fortification Plans

By DAVID M. CHURCH.
International News Service.

Japan will demand a complete understanding on future development of naval bases before she makes any definite and final reply to America's suggestion for a ten-year naval holiday, it was learned today.

Wants Guarantees From U. S.
A naval holiday which did not extend to naval bases in the Pacific would be ineffective, according to experts here, and Japan cannot afford to quit building ships unless she has assurances that the United States is ready to agree to a cessation of extension of her base facilities in the Pacific.

Naval experts agree that the dominating factor in any war upon the Pacific would be the strength of the land bases rather than the strength of fleets.

Peace With Germany To Be Proclaimed Late Today

By International News Service.
President Harding today completed a draft of a proclamation of peace between the United States and the Central Powers, it was learned at the White House.

The rough draft of the proclamation was sent to the State Department to be put in shape for promulgation.

It is expected that the President will sign the completed document and issue it late today.

It was also learned that Germany has sent a communication to the United States asking that this nation defer the naming of an Ambassador to Germany.

Germany, it is understood, stated in her communication that the government has yet been unable to find a citizen of that country of sufficient wealth to accept the ambassadorial post.

Because of this fact Germany is anxious that the two nations be represented only by charge d'affaires for the present.

NAVAL HOLIDAY WOULD SHATTER JAPAN'S DREAM

H. G. Wells Says Hughes' Proposal Is Blow to Nipponese Plans of Conquest.

By H. G. WELLS.
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It was difficult at first to imagine the conference as anything more than an admirably well-managed social occasion.

Continental Hall is a quite charming building, not too big for intimacy, not too small for a sufficient gathering of people.

The chief members of the delegations had still to assemble; they were to sit at green baize covered tables in the body of the hall.

About this central arena sat the masses of attaches and under the galleries the press representatives.

In the boxes clustered the ladies of the diplomatic world.

Members of the House of Representatives, the Senators, their friends, and a sprinkling of privileged people occupied the big galleries above.

Like a Very Smart First Night.
There was a great chatter of conversation when I entered. Everybody was greeting friends, flitting from group to group; it was one of those gatherings where everybody seemed to know everybody. Socially, it was extraordinarily like a very smart first night in a prominent London theater.

"Last time I came to America," I found myself saying, "I brought a silk hat and morning coat and never wore them once. Now everybody seems to be wearing a morning coat and a silk hat." It was the sort of occasion one dresses for.

It was difficult to believe that this gathering could be the beginning of anything of supreme historical importance.

Came a slight hush in the conversation. The delegates appeared, all with tremendously familiar faces taken out of the illustrated papers. They disposed themselves in their seats in leisurely fashion. One seat remained vacant for a time, the seat of the President. Then appeared President Harding and there was a great clapping of hands. It became more and more like a first night. Then a hushing of enthusiasm and silence, and he spoke.

It was a fine speech, less ornate than the one made by the international body, but it was the heart of the hour. (Continued on Page 4, Column 6.)

ARBuckle TRIAL UNDER WAY

GESSFORD EXPECTED TO RETIRE

Police Chief Breaks Down Under Hostile Fire—Commissioners May Force Action.

Major Harry L. Gessford, superintendent of Washington's police department, is at his home, due to a breakdown brought on, it is said, by the strain he has been subjected to for the past few days. He went home Saturday night and has not been to his office since.

Urged to Resign Office.
Major Gessford has been in ill health for some time, and his friends tried to prevail on him to resign. He refused to resign, however, while his administration was under fire.

It is believed that as a result of jammed traffic conditions incident to the burial of the unknown soldier Friday, which has brought to a head the conditions that brought about the resignation, the Commissioners will compel Major Gessford to retire.

Shortly before the administration of Major Gessford came under fire, it is said that he was ready to resign, and was trying to get the maximum pension allowed under the law—\$2,225 a year. The Commissioners were ready to give him the maximum, but then his administration began to get into complications and he refused to retire.

One of the Commissioners today said that Major Gessford had missed his opportunity to retire gracefully, and it is now believed, that it will take a great deal of pressure on the part of the Commissioners to get him to leave him retired on the suitable conditions which he first asked for.

Oyster Conducting Probe.
Commissioner Oyster today is conducting a rigid investigation into the conditions that brought about the traffic jam at the highway bridge on Friday.

He had several conferences with Inspector Daniel Sullivan, acting superintendent of police, but nothing was made public.

It is understood that Capt. Albert J. Hadley, head of the traffic bureau has made a report to Commissioner Oyster giving his version of the jam.

In the boxes clustered the ladies of the diplomatic world.

Members of the House of Representatives, the Senators, their friends, and a sprinkling of privileged people occupied the big galleries above.

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Claims Her Professor Husband Is "Mental Loafer"



Mrs. Walter S. Cook, rich wife of the Harvard instructor she accuses of breaking into her home, says her husband is an "intellectual loafer."

Cook says her former husband, Prof. Greenfield, of Purdue University, smashed their home.

TEN LOSE LIVES AS FIRE SWEEPS N. Y. TENEMENT

Thirty Others Injured in Stampede to Safety—Two of Victims Are Children.

By International News Service.
NEW YORK, Nov. 14.—Ten persons are dead and an eleventh is dying as a result of a fire sweeping through a five-story tenement house at 108 West Seventeenth street here early today.

Two of the victims were children. So much progress had the fire made before it was discovered and so rapidly did it spread that several of the victims were burned in their beds without a chance for life. The cause of the blaze has not been learned.

Thirty persons were burned or injured in the mad scramble for safety that followed the sounding of the alarm by employees of a postal substitution across the street. The injured were attended by ambulance surgeons.

Seventy-five persons, mostly Greeks and Spaniards, were made homeless by the blaze, which gutted the building. They were temporarily housed in the postoffice, while blankets and clothing were sent from New York hospitals and coffee and sandwiches were provided by the police.

Firemen Save Scores.
Quick work by the firemen in running an eighty-five-foot extension ladder up to the roof of the tenement saved a dozen lives. The firemen were just too late to save Benjamin Diaz, twenty-five, who lost his grip on a third-floor window sill just as a ladder was being put up to him. He fell to the sidewalk and sustained a fractured skull and legs.

Fireman Patrick Foley risked his life when he plunged through the flames to rescue an unidentified woman who was so badly burned that she is now dying in Bellevue. Idle Mulano, twenty-five, was also taken to Bellevue suffering from a broken arm sustained when he was pushed off the fire escape by excited tenants.

Eight bodies had been recovered early today.

WHOLESALE JAIL BREAK THWARTED

Captain Peake Foils Plans of Dangerous Criminals—Cell Bars Found Sawed.

A daring attempt by a score of prisoners of the District jail to escape from the institution was frustrated yesterday by Capt. William L. Peake, superintendent of the prison.

Most of those implicated in the plot, which was discovered Saturday by Captain Peake, are under heavy sentence, and preparations were being made for their transfer to the Federal prison at Leavenworth, Kans.

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Picked By Thousands For Pageant Queen In Richmond



Mrs. Harry Semones, who has been elected queen of the Richmond Pageant, which will be held next spring.

MRS. SEMONES TO BE RICHMOND PAGEANT QUEEN

Wife of Virginia Doctor Will Lead Historical Event—Miss Kelly Is Maid of Honor.

RICHMOND, Va., Nov. 14.—Mrs. Harry Semones, of Roanoke, will be Queen of the Virginia Historical Pageant to be staged here next spring. She has just been selected for that high honor in a competitive voting contest in which upward of 500,000 ballots were cast.

Her total vote was 40,413. Miss Bessie Kelly, the next highest received a total of 35,264. Miss Kelly whose home is in Norfolk will be maid of honor for the Second Congressional district.

Mrs. Semones is a native of Seven Mile Ford, Smyth county, Va. Before her marriage, to Mr. Harry Semones, of this city, she was Miss Hattie Jane Anderson, daughter of Mr. Samuel T. Copenhaver, of Bristol, Va. Mrs. Semones is now president of the State Parent Teachers Association.

Among those nominated for the honor in Richmond was Mrs. John Skelton Williams, wife of the former comptroller of the currency.

Maid of honor for the ten congressional districts are as follows: First—Miss Louise Campbell, Denbigh; Second—Miss Bessie Kelly, Norfolk; Third—Miss Frances Ellnor Fry, Richmond; Fourth—Miss Spottswood Roberts, Chase City; Fifth—Miss Marian Sprague, South Boston; Sixth—Miss Harlan White, Bedford; Seventh—Mrs. Roland Tree, Mirador; Eighth—Miss Barbara Overton Kean, Louisa; Ninth—Miss Pattie Hagan, Britton; Tenth—Miss Ethel Alston Cabell, Columbia.

Mrs. Tree, maid of honor for the Seventh district was formerly Nancy Keene Perkins, of Richmond. She was first married to Henry Marshall Field of Chicago. After his death, she married Mr. Tree, a cousin of her first husband. Her mother was Elizabeth Langhorne, one of the famous Langhorne sisters, before marrying T. Moncreux Perkins, of Richmond.

WOMEN TO BE SOUGHT ON JURY TO TRY FATTY

Thirteen Are Called in First Venire—May Take Week to Get Full Panel.

By ELLIS H. MARTIN.
SAN FRANCISCO, Nov. 14.—

The task of obtaining a jury of twelve men and women who will determine the guilt or innocence of Roscoe ("Fatty") Arbuckle, charged with manslaughter as the result of the death of Virginia Rappe, film actress, was undertaken here today.

13 Women in Venire.
Thirteen women and fifty-three men were in the venire that appeared in Superior Judge Harold Lauderback's court at 10 o'clock today, when the clerk called the case of the state versus Arbuckle.

The State had twenty questions prepared for each juror. Two days was the most optimistic forecast for obtaining a jury, while some estimated a week will be required and many speculators ventured.

District Attorney Brady, as the trial started, repeated his challenge to the defense to put Arbuckle on the stand. It has not been definitely decided by the defense whether the film star will take the witness stand.

Defense Relies On Hotel Detective.
As the trial actually opened, it became more and more apparent that the defense relies heavily on the testimony of George Glennon, hotel detective, to clear their client. Glennon, it is understood, will testify that before her death Virginia Rappe, in his presence, absolved Arbuckle from blame for her condition. Glennon made a statement to the district attorney's office, and the defense claims that the prosecution failed to pay any attention to it and that it was suppressed.

The second line will be depositions to the effect that Miss Rappe suffered from a physical ailment for many years and had been warned that any exertion might cause her death. The State will fight introduction of this line of defense and expects to show that Miss Rappe, up until the afternoon of the party, was in perfect health.

The trial, which opened here today, marked the climax of one of "Fatty's" famous parties.

Held in Fashionable Hotel.
It was given in the fashionable St. Francis Hotel here early last September and lasted three days. According to prohibition enforcement officials, thirty quarts of high-class smuggled liquors were served.

Virginia Rappe, accompanied by Bambina Maude Delmont, went to the party the morning of Labor Day, September 5. The party, attended by a dozen other men and women, came to an end when Miss Rappe, seized with a sudden illness while in a room with Arbuckle, tore off her own clothing. Four days later she died at a private sanitarium. The greatest secrecy surrounded her death, and an unofficial autopsy was performed before the coroner's office was called in.

The autopsy developed the fact that she came to her death as a result of a ruptured bladder. A police investigation was begun, and late that night Chief of Police O'Brien summoned Arbuckle from Los Angeles to act as plain. Arbuckle, accompanied by his manager, several friends, and two attorneys—Milton Cohen and Frank

BEGINNING NEXT SUNDAY—LADY NANCY ASTOR, American wife of Lord Astor, and the first woman member of the British Parliament, will write a series of articles on the Limitation of Armament Conference for The Washington Times.